

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3942

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR PINS PDIP VN ASEAN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE IN TOKYO: DRV CHARGE TRAN DUC TUE

REF: TOKYO 3619

SUMMARY: SINCE DRV EMBASSY OPENED IN TOKYO JANUARY 13, CHARGE TRAN DUC TUE HAS ENERGETICALLY AND FAVORABLY CULTIVATED THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. HE HAS COURTED ASEAN DIPLOMATS PARTICULARLY, TAKING A LESS STRIDENT LINE THAN HANOI TOWARD THE ASEAN ORGANIZATION. CONTRASTING WITH THIS FAVORABLE IMAGE WITH DIPLOMATS, TUE HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AMONG VIETNAMESE STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM REGARD TUE AS COLD PERSONALLY AND UNSYMPATHETIC GENERALLY TO THEIR PLIGHT. HE HAS INDICATED THAT ONLY A SELECTED FEW WILL BE WELCOMED BACK IN THE "NEW VIETNAM."

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BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY REGARD TUE

AS "PRO-CHINESE." END SUMMARY.

1. DRV CHARGE TRAN DUC TUE HAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED MANY MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS BY ENERGETICALLY MAKING CALLS AND ENGAGING IN GENERALLY MODERATE CONVERSATION. HE HAS APPROACHED ASEAN DIPLOMATS IN CONCILIATORY FASHION, CASTING HIS REMARKS ABOUT ASEAN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY FROM RECENT STRIDENT CRITICISM OF ASEAN IN HANOI'S NHAN DAN. SINGAPORE POL COUNS ALI AND INDONESIAN MINISTER COUNS SATARI HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH TUE'S PERFORMANCE AND RELAYED TO US TUE'S REACTION TO THEIR QUERIES ABOUT CRITICISM OF ASEAN EMANATING FROM HANOI. TUE TOLD BOTH THAT HANOI WISHED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL THE ASEAN STATES, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA SPECIFICALLY. NHAN DAN CRITICISM OF ASEAN SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS AN ATTACK ON ASEAN BUT RATHER AS EFFORT BY HANOI TO WARN ASEAN NATIONS THAT THEY SHOULD BE WARY OF AMERICAN MACHINATIONS TO TURN ASEAN INTO A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR INTRUSION INTO SE ASIAN AFFAIRS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS WELL AWARE OF TUE'S PURPORTED PROSPEKING SYMPATHIES, TUE HAS SUCCEEDED THUS FAR IN MAINTAINING A NEUTRAL STANCE REGARDING CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. TUE BLANDLY SAYS THAT HANOI REGRETS THE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO AND HOPES THAT THEY WILL AS SOCIALIST BROTHER COUNTRIES AMICABLY RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. "BOTH PROVIDED TREMENDOUS AID TO THE VIETNAMESE DURING THEIR LONG STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM." AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS, TUE SHIES FROM CONTACT WITH BOTH RUSSIANS AND CHINESE AND SEEMS TO PREFER THE COMPANY OF CUBANS. (NOTE: WHILE THIS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS FAVORING A PRO-SOVIET SURROGATE, CUBANS PUSH A "THIRD WORLD IMAGE" IN TOKYO AND THEY ACTED AS CARETAKERS FOR THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY BEFORE TUE AND HIS STAFF ARRIVED.) ASEAN COLLEAGUES TELL US TUE SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND CHINESE WELL, AND SATARI THINKS TUE LEARNED INDONESIAN DURING ASSIGNMENT TO JAKARTA AS THIRD SECRETARY FROM 1971-72. HE IS STUDYING JAPANESE NOW. TUE STUDIED CHINESE IN PEKING FROM 1950-54 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED TO PEKING. HE HAS ALSO BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSIGNED TO BURMA (1969-71) AND INDIA, ACCORDING TO SATARI. HE HAS TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER BUT HIS FAMILY REMAINED IN VN.

3. FROM A VIETNAMESE CONFIDANT - A VERY WELL CONNECTED, NON-COMMUNIST STUDENT LEADER WHO HOPES TO WORK FOR "SOCIALISM WITH A HUMAN FACE" IN THE NEW VIETNAM, - WE GET A MARKEDLY DIFFERENT ACCOUNT OF TUE. TUE IS KNOWN

TO VIETNAMESE IN TOKYO AS A PROTEGE OF DRV LAO DONG PARTY POLITBURO MEMBER TROUNG CHINH. HE IS WIDELY THOUGHT TO SHARE TROUNG CHINH'S PRO-CHINESE SYMPATHIES. VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY ALSO THINKS THAT TUE WAS SELECTED FOR TOKYO BECAUSE OF THESE PRO-PEKING ATTITUDES. THEY REASON THAT A PRO-CHINESE WAS CHOSEN FOR TOKYO TO BALANCE LAO DONG SECY GENERAL LE DUAN'S PRO-MOSCOW STANCE AND TO TAILOR HANOI'S DIPLOMATIC POSTURE TO WHAT HANOI PERCEIVES AS A DEVELOPING PEKING-TOKYO-WASHINGTON ENTENTE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION.

4. THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT TUE IS PRO-CHINESE ASIDE FROM HIS CONNECTIONS WITH TROUNG CHINH. AS A MORE EXOTIC EXAMPLE, TUE PARTICIPATED IN THE YOKOHAMA TABLE TENNIS GAME HELD LAST YEAR AS "SECRETARY" OF THE RGSVN DELEGATION AND HE USED A CHINESE NAME IN HIS IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTATION. (CHEN TE HUI -MATTHEWS 339/6162/2333)

5. COMMON IMPRESSION AMONG VIETNAMESE STUDENTS WHO HAVE MET TUE IS THAT HE IS A COLD MAN. NO TET CEREMONY OR ANY OTHER RECEPTION FOR THE VIETNAMESE STUDENT COMMUNITY HAS BEEN HELD SINCE TUE OPENED THE DRV EMBASSY JANUARY 13. ONLY FIVE STUDENTS, ALL MEMBERS OF BEIHEITO (PRO-HANOI VN STUDENT GROUP), WERE SELECTED AND SENT TO SAIGON FOR TET CELEBRATIONS. THE STUDENT COMMUNITY HAS ALSO BEEN VERY SURPRISED WITH TUE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR RETURN TO SVN AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES. TUE HAS COMMENTED CANDIDLY TO MANY VIETNAMESE THAT THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN JAPAN - THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE FORMER GVN AND THOSE WHO ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE PRG. FORMER ARE CAPITALISTS, PRO-US OR PRO-JAPAN AND NOT ADAPTABLE TO THE NEW VIETNAM. OF THE SECOND PRO-PRG GROUP, TUE HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID THAT IF THEIR SKILLS ARE NEEDED BY THE NEW VIETNAM, THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. STUDENTS ARE DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THIS ATTITUDE ON TUE'S (AND PRESUMABLY THE NEW VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S) PART AND INTERPRET IT TO MEAN THAT FEW OF THE STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. VIETNAMESE STUDENTS THINK HANOI BELIEVES THAT STUDENTS WHO HAVE STUDIED IN WESTERN COUNTRIES OR JAPAN WILL BE AN UNHAPPY AND A DESTABILIZING ELEMENT AND THEREFORE DOES NOT WANT THEM TO RETURN, AT LEAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED EARLIER (REFTEL), TUE APPEARS TO BE A COMPETENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HANOI IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES, BUT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING. IF THIS IS WORLDWIDE LINE TAKEN

BY DRV DIPLOMATS, HANOI SEEMS TO BE UNWISELY SOURING THE ATTITUDES OF MANY POTENTIAL GOODWILL AMBASSADORS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND CREATING A LARGE COLONY OF DISAFFECTED EXPATRIOTS. THEIR TALENTS, WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD BE OF USE IN BUILDING A SOCIALIST VIETNAM, ARE ALSO SEEMINGLY BEING SPURNED.

7. TUE'S POSITION WORRIES THE STUDENTS NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF PERHAPS NOT BEING ALLOWED TO RETURN TO VN BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT POSES QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE IN JAPAN AS WELL. FONOFF HAS NEVERTHELESS ASSURED US FREQUENTLY AND RECENTLY THAT NO VIETNAMESE WILL BE FORCED TO RETURN TO VN AND DESPITE PRESSURES ENCOURAGING THE STUDENTS TO DEPART JAPAN AFTER COMPLETION OF STUDIES, THE GOJ WILL NOT ACTUALLY FORCE THEM TO LEAVE.
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